

CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED] 25X1
 SECURITY INFORMATION
 COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from Oranienburg

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 13 January to 20 February 1952

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 12 March 1952

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 20 January 1952, the five rocket launchers repeatedly observed in the Industriehof of the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp and the SS Kasern Oranienburg (N 53/Z 67), were no longer seen. [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] had been moved to the former storehouse for tools. The ammunition storage buildings in the south eastern section of the concentration camp were filled with ammunition from the depot at Massenheide in mid-January. T-34 tanks [REDACTED] were almost daily seen leaving the depot. Colonel Skomora (fnu) left the installation on 17 January to go to Eberswalde for one week. A major [REDACTED] who called himself a second chief assumed the position of acting commander. Colonel Skomora (fnu) had a headquarters building of his own in the immediate vicinity of the low wooden hospital buildings. [REDACTED]

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2. During the week from 21 to 26 January, the troops in the concentration camp and the SS Kaserne held field practices every night. They began daily with callisthenics from 5 to 5:30 p. m. followed by mess call from 7 to 8:30 p. m. The troops subsequently left the billeting area with tanks, trucks, rocket launchers and AT guns and returned before 7 a. m. the following morning. When a normal daytime training schedule was followed, the troops were served meals by five kitchens daily at 7 a. m., 3 p. m. and 7 p. m. The first kitchen is in the former dog kennel; the second, which caters to 560 officers and men, is in the concentration camp; the third is in the Waldhaus; the fourth is in the Industriehof; and the fifth is in the large buildings next to the SS Kaserne. The latter kitchen was the main kitchen for the troops in the SS Kaserne. Four other messhalls were located near the headquarters building of Colonel Skomora (fnu). They catered to high-ranking officers exclusively and were guarded by sentries. The troops assembled at mess call and marched to the messhalls in formation. (1)

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5. In early February, [] four sedans, escorted by two motorcycles, would daily leave the billeting area of the SS Kaserne and the concentration camp toward Schmachtenhagen at 7 p. m. Two of the sedans would each carry one general. Each sidecar of the motorcycles was occupied by an officer. On some days, the generals came from the SS Kaserne and on other days, apparently from the restricted Weisse Stadt area.

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6. Prior to 9 February, the troops in the SS Kaserne received close-order drill from 7 to 7:45 a. m., had breakfast from 8 to 9:30 a. m. and subsequently engaged in special training, such as servicing of motor vehicles, training in firing, driver training, arms drill etc. Numerous sidecar motorcycles were again seen in the saw mill near the power plant of the concentration camp on 8 February. From 5 to 10 of these motorcycles were used daily for training drivers at the parade ground. [redacted] the drivers were trained until they were able to drive the motorcycle with the sidecar not touching the ground. Colonel Gruenshenkov (fnu) was still stationed in the concentration camp. A new 100 meter target range was established between the kitchen and the ammunition storage buildings. The project was almost completed

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7. [redacted] 25X1

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8. Prior to 20 February, the SS Kaserne and the concentration camp were still occupied by about 6,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery and motor transport insignia. A shipment of 34 [redacted] trucks arrived at the Oranienburg main railroad station from the direction of Loewenberg on 14 February and the loaded railroad cars were shunted toward the concentration camp. [redacted]

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9. During the period from 23 to 31 January, Unit Zemyrnov, which is quartered in the concentration camp, slept during the morning and began its daily routine at about noon. [redacted] the unit was engaged in night exercises during this period. Lieutenant Colonel Grinchenko (phonetic spelling) (fnu) was identified as the Kech officer in charge of the whole Camp Sachsenhausen. Captain Vazilenko (phonetic spelling) (fnu), his deputy, was on leave in the U.S.S.R. in late January. Buildings [redacted] are occupied by Unit Zemyrnov; and buildings [redacted] occupied by Unit Chuk. (1)

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10. On 7 February, T-34 tank [redacted] was seen in the training area for tank troops. [redacted] were seen leaving Camp Sachsenhausen on that day. T-34 tank [redacted] were entrained at the Oranienburg railroad station on 1 February. [redacted] the tanks would be shipped to Neustrelitz for repair. He added that there were frequent shipments of tanks needing repair, and that the tanks always returned from Neustrelitz. (1)

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11. On 20 February, the restricted Weisse Stadt area was occupied by about 700 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia. Troops were seen receiving close-order drill and theoretical instruction around a sand table which was in the southwestern corner of the military reservation. Other troops practiced enplacing 76.2-mm AT guns and stringing

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of telephone lines. The garages of bricks and wood were filled to capacity by motor vehicles and 76.2-mm artillery pieces. Rocket launchers were no longer noticed in the billeting area. Vehicles seen leaving toward Borgsdorf [redacted]

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[redacted] each carrying 6 to 16 soldiers and towing a 76.20mm gun. One of the trucks was equipped with a radio set. Other trucks identified as the Weisse Stadt [redacted]

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- 25X1C-3 12. [redacted] the construction of a subterranean fuel depot in the concentration camp of Sachsenhausen prior to February, [redacted] a railroad spur led to the depot. The depot was about 12 meters underground and contained four fuel tanks which were mounted on a concrete floor and had a capacity of about 30,000 liters each. The tanks could be filled or drained by means of a pumping station. Shipments of four railroad tank cars used to arrive at the depot. In addition, the depot contained space for the storage of about 4,000 fuel barrels. The detail guarding the depot was quartered in two low wooden barracks building on the western and southern edge of the depot respectively. Because of the lack of a pumping installation for the pipe line between the depot and the canal, fuel brought by barge would have to be transferred to barrels. (6)

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[redacted] Comments.

- (1) The report confirms most of the components of the 25th Tank Div in the concentration camp and the SS Kaserne and permits the identification of components of the 16th (?) Gds RI. Bn and, probably, the 53d Mtrcl Bn. [redacted] Reports from numerous military posts in the Soviet Zone of Germany indicate that the training of the troops was shifted to night training at the end of January 1952. All officers mentioned in the present report are known. Only Colonel Gruenshenko (fnu) and Colonel Chuk (fnu) are believed to be commanding officers, with the latter being in command of the 162d Tank Regt. All other officers have probably administrative and supply functions.

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(2)

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- (5) The weapons [redacted] reported confirm the Weisse Stadt as quartering components of the unidentified AT artillery brigade of the Second Gds Lecz Army. [redacted]
- (6) According to its capacity, it is believed that the fuel installation is designed to meet the requirements of the unit stationed there, that is the bulk of the 25th Tank Div.

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